



A Coalition of Empowerment Zones, Renewal Communities and
Enterprise Communities Seeking Legislative Reform

May 20, 2010

To: Sander Levin, Chair
David Camp, Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee

I am Carl Friend. I coordinate the EZRCEC Coaliton. The EZRCEC Coalition is composed of participating empowerment zones, renewal communities, and enterprise communities, both rural and urban designees from Rounds I, II, and III. There are 100 designees nationwide in 39 states. Of the 100 designees, 80 -85 are active in the Coalition at any given time. The Coalition is a non-incorporated entity and its association is informal and fluid. Participants include zones and communities, their nominating governments and private sector partners. Coordination is accomplished through the good offices of Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance, the administrative agent for two of the largest renewal communities. We can be contacted at the points listed below.

I am writing in support of the passage of H. R. 4213, the "*American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act* " H.R. 4213 would extend the tax benefits available to qualifying businesses located in empowerment zones and renewal communities through December, 2010. These zones and communities are designated from among the areas of the nation with the highest poverty and unemployment rates. They are areas with multiple dysfunctional social and economic factors that have resulted in persistent community decline and lack of capital investment. The tax benefits available to qualifying businesses in the empowerment zones and renewal communities have assisted in attracting investment and creating/retaining jobs available to their residents thus raising the tax collections of the local communities and reducing the level of assistance needed by the residents.

Empowerment zones and renewal communities have been designated in the following 33 states: AL (Green-Sumter RC, Mobile Rc, Southern Alabama RC), , AZ (Tucson EZ), AR (Pulaski County EZ), CA (Desert Communities EZ, Fresno EC, Los Angeles EZ, Los Angeles RC, Orange Cove RC, Parlier RC, San Diego RC, San Francisco RC Santa Ana EZ), CT (New Haven EZ), FL(Jacksonville EZ, Miami-Dade County EZ), GA (Atlanta RC, Southwest Georgia United EZ), IL (Chicago EZ, Chicago RC, East St. Louis EZ, Southernmost Illinois Delta EZ), IN (Gary-Hammond-East Chicago EZ), KY (Eastern Kentucky RC, Kentucky Highlands EZ), LA (Central Louisiana RC, New Orleans RC, Northern Louisiana RC, Ouachita Parish RC), MD (Baltimore EZ). ME (Aroostook County EZ), MA (Boston EZ, Lawrence RC, Lowell RC), MI (Detroit EZ, Detroit RC, Flint RC), MN (Minneapolis EZ), MS (Mid-Delta Alliance EZ, West Central Mississippi RC), MO (St. Louis EZ), NJ (Camden EZ, Camden RC, Cumberland County EZ, Newark RC), NY (Buffalo-Lackawanna RC, Jamestown Rc, New York EZ [Upper Manhattan & Bronx], ND (Griggs-Steele EZ,Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa RC), OH (Cincinnati EZ, Cleveland EZ, Columbus EZ, Hamilton RC, Ironton EZ, Youngstown RC), OK (Oklahoma City EZ), PA (Philadelphia EZ, Philadelphia RC), SC (Columbia-Sumter EZ), SD



(Oglala Sioux-Pine ridge EZ), TN (Chattanooga RC, Memphis RC), TX (Corpus Christi RC, El Paso EZ, El Paso County RC, FUTURO Communities EZ, Rio Grande Valley EZ, San Antonio EZ), VT (Burlington RC), VA (Norfolk_Portsmouth EZ), WA (Tacoma RC, Yakima RC), WV (Huntington EZ), and WI (Milwaukee RC). All of the 17 states without designated empowerment zones or renewal communities (HI, AK, OR, CO, WY, ID, NH, NC, KS, NV, MT, NM, UT, DE, IA, RI, NE) have both urban and rural areas that would qualify for designation under the existing criteria.

In addition there are 20 rural enterprise zones that have participated in the EZRCEC Coalition: Sister enterprise community programs have been designated in the following states: Alendale Alive (SC), Bowling Green (KY), City of Deming (NM), Clare County (MI), Clinch-Powell (TN), Empower Lewiston (ME), Fayette (PA), Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribe (MT), Five Star (WA), Four Corners (AZ, NM, UT), FUTURO (TX), Metlakatla Indian Community (AL), Moloka'i (HI), Northwoods NiiJii (WI), Southwest Florida Empowerment Alliance (FL), Tri-County Indian Nations (OK), Upper Kanawha Valley (WV), Westside-Tule (CA), and Wichita County (KS). Creatures of appropriations, these ECs were not included in H.R. 4213.

While the Coalition's goals extend beyond the one-year extension in H.R. 4213, we know that that extension is absolutely critical to our future prospects of arresting the decline of our communities and assisting in their redevelopment. We ask for your support when H.R. 4213, the "American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act " comes to the floor of the House for passage.

On behalf of the Coalition, thank you in advance for any consideration you may give.



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